

## REMARKS

Applicants note with thanks the Examiner's reconsideration of a portion of the restriction requirement formerly made, as indicated in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. In response to paragraph 2, applicants have cancelled claims 55 and 56 because they refer to a non-elected species without traverse.

Regarding the claim objection to claim 37 made in paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claim 37 has been corrected to indicate a plurality of longitudinal contacts that can provide a gap between two of them. This amendment removes the informality pointed out by the Examiner.

Another informality has been pointed out in paragraph 5 of the Office Action with regard to claim 48. This has caused the Examiner to contend that the claim adds "new matter." The beginning of this claim has been reworded to make it clear that the support for this claim is Figures 27-30 and the discussion in the specification that begins on page 9 line 3 and continues to page 10 line 4. The clarified language in this claim makes it very clear that the original specification supports this claim and that no new matter is present. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for pointing out some less than clear language in this claim, thus calling applicants' attention to it so that it could be clarified before the patent issues.

In paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Office Action, independent claim 29 is rejected as anticipated over Lindsey Jr. or Garcia. These two references show slips pushed out by cones to leave gaps between the slips. The Examiner has read the slips of these two references on the phrase "expanding at least a portion of the tubular string into contact with the cased borehole for support thereof." Applicants have addressed this reading of claim 29 by the Examiner by changing "tubular string" to "wall." Shifting a cone outside the wall to cam out slips in the two cited references is different from expanding the wall that is the tubing string. The cited

references use cones to push out slips in the traditional manner. Claim 1 expands the tubing wall. Claims 29 and the dependent claims thereon that were rejected as anticipated in paragraphs 6 and 7 are believed to be in allowable condition.

In paragraphs 8-9 claims 29-54 were rejected on the obviousness type double patenting in view of USP 6,446,724 and 6,631,765. Applicants submit a terminal disclaimer signed by the undersigned attorney to overcome this rejection.

All the claims are now believed to be allowable.

September 30, 2004

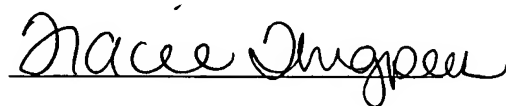
Respectfully submitted,



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